do you, don't you, would you

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Teen And Up Audiences

Archive Warning:
No Archive Warnings Apply

Category:
M/M

Fandom:
Dead Poets Society (1989)

Relationships:
Todd Anderson/Neil Perry, Todd Anderson & Neil Perry, Charlie Dalton & Neil Perry, Charlie Dalton/Knox Overstreet (mentioned), Todd Anderson & Charlie Dalton, Knox Overstreet & Neil Perry, Todd Anderson & Knox Overstreet

Characters:
Todd Anderson, Neil Perry (Dead Poets Society), Charlie Dalton, Knox Overstreet

Additional Tags:
Alternate Universe - Modern Setting, Mild Hurt/Comfort, Musical References, i'm just projecting i'm sorry, Texting, they both have feelings for each other but they're dumb, and they're roommates but it's in college, Not Beta Read, other dps characters may make appearances in passing but they aren't super important here, Implied/Referenced Self-Harm, updating tags as I go along, the slightest mention of homophobia bc todd's parents suck eggs, if anything needs a tw it'll be in the notes!!

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English

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do you, don't you, would you

by datahearts

Summary

just your stereotypical modern day college au but with lots of specific music references and mostly written as text messages

Chapter 1: i wanna rush in with the fools

Chapter Notes

just a few things i guess

-todd uses people's full names as their contacts bc why not
-they're dorm mates but they share a common area (kitchen/ living room area) with charlie and knox. as in they have their own rooms but they share that middle area
-this would be their second year in college and it's like a non-specific school. just wherever you think they'd all end up really
-it's also set in a reality where the pandemic didn't happen, so it's 2020/2021 but without miss rona

See the end of the chapter for more notes

neil perry

hey, i heard you listening to boxer earlier

like on repeat

you good?

todd anderson

were my headphones that loud or

neil perry

they could hear you across town

todd anderson

sorry

next time i'll listen to zephyr

neil perry

you know that's worse right

that means you're even more sad

boxer is a little sad

but knowing you and knowing zephyr

you're sad about someone

so who could possibly have gained todd anderson's attention enough to break his heart?

todd anderson

no one broke my heart

i'm just sad

i guess

neil perry

so blasting leave a tender moment alone while i was in the shower then

todd anderson

you weren't supposed to hear that

neil perry

okay

if you don't want to tell me who you're moping about i won't force it out of you

i know how you can get

todd anderson

and that's supposed to mean...?

neil perry

well

i asked you last year what was bothering you

the whole month of november was just smiths songs on loop

you said it was nothing

and then you played the queen is dead

and i asked you again

you claimed you were just stressing out over your history assignment

but no one listens to i know it's over when they're writing about western expansion

so i bugged you again

and you kicked me out for the night

i heard your sobbing from the couch and i knew you weren't okay

but i couldn't bother you about it anymore

as for how that fits in right now?

i'm just concerned about you

i don't want to sleep on the couch again

and you shouldn't have to hide yourself from me

todd anderson

neil

what difference would it make if you knew or not

it wouldn't change anything

i mean it would change everything

but not in a good way

neil perry

i can assure you my lips are sealed

i won't go running to tell them you like them

judging by how many times i've heard you play sorrow you don't think they like you back

soon enough you'll be playing the honorary title

todd anderson

they don't like me back

who would

neil perry

when i get back i'm gonna slap you

todd anderson

thanks

neil perry

but really

you can’t put yourself down like that

whoever this person is you like

obviously you like them for a reason

why can’t they have the same reason

why does everyone else deserve love but not you

todd anderson

i’m

i don’t know

neil perry

anyway

i’ll be home soon

charlie had to take the scenic route from the store

todd anderson

i’ll put on some soccer mommy for you <3

neil perry

and you wonder why i worry

Chapter End Notes

here's a playlist of the chapter titles

music references:

chapter title is from squalor victoria by the national
boxer and sorrow are both by the national

zephyr is by niki
leave a tender moment alone is by billy joel
the queen is dead and i know it's over are both by the smiths
the honorary title album in question is scream and light up the sky
and the soccer mommy album in question is color theory <3

Chapter 2: sometimes i really want you but sometimes i really don't

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

todd anderson

neil

what's that one playlist you're always listening to

the one with all the sad songs

neil perry

um

lowkey?

but they're not all sad

todd anderson

what a life saver ❤

neil perry

wait a minute

todd

you said you were going to the library

shouldn't you be listening to your classical music or something???

todd anderson

i started reading this book

extremely loud and incredibly close

just because it was on the cart of books that weren't put back yet

and neil

it's really sad

and now i want to listen to sad music to fit the vibe

neil perry

oh yea

i didn't read the book but i saw the movie

todd anderson

how uncultured

neil perry

i didn't know there was a book before i saw it 🙄

but why are you trying to be sad this week

if i see you listening to nokia tonight i'm going to fight you

todd anderson

says the one who's blasting taylor swift in the mornings

neil perry

well sorry for being in a red mood lately

todd anderson

so if you can be in a taylor mood why can't i be in the mood for ouch!

neil perry

because you've listened to feel this way every night for the whole week

and that's concerning

todd anderson

fine

i've been depressed all week

sue me

neil perry

okay

put that playlist on then

i assume you don't want to be happy rn

todd anderson

you wanna be sad together?

neil perry

what makes you think i'm sad??

todd anderson

spotify says you’re listening to evermore

coney island rn

neil perry

fine

bring that book with you

todd anderson

<3

Chapter End Notes

music references:

chapter title is from nokia by matt watson
ouch!, feel this way, and nokia are by matt watson
red, evermore, and coney island are by taylor swift

also!! the book todd finds is by jonathan safran foer

Chapter 3: infatuation is the perfect camouflage

Chapter Summary

bit of a short chapter but was worth posting <3

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

neil perry

hey i forgot my calculus book would you mind meeting me halfway for it

todd anderson

sure

by the way

i saw YOU listening to the honorary title

so what's that about

neil perry

sometimes i like to listen to stay away

it's a good song to blast and cry to <3

todd anderson

agreed

but who is it

neil perry

bold of you to assume i would cry over someone

some songs i don't relate to but it's fun to sing along

todd anderson

right

neil perry

he's really cute though

the "someone"

really stupid at times but cute

todd anderson

so

i know you can't dance

but you want to dance with this guy

neil perry

???

you got that from one honorary title song

what

todd anderson

you know the implication of that song

oth season 5

it’s just angst

neil perry

ah yes

“you still love me, don’t you?”

“i have to go see lindsey”

todd anderson

what a trainwreck

btw i’m on my way i’ll see you in a bit

neil perry

okay

thanks again

todd anderson

np

neil perry

oh and todd?

todd anderson

yea

neil perry

listening to far more now <3

todd anderson

god you have issues

Chapter End Notes

music references:

chapter title is from wait until i'm gone by the honorary title
far more and stay away are by the honorary title

(if it wasn't obvious before, i really love the album scream and light up the sky. and i really miss the honorary title.
and the one tree hill season 5 reference was from the episode that the honorary title performed in, episode 7. thank you for reading!!)

Chapter 4: i didn't ask for this pain, it just came over me

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

todd anderson

hey did you do the art paper yet

neil perry

like an hour ago

you need help?

todd anderson

just on the last part

what the fuck is the cathedral important for

outside of religious shit

neil perry

the architecture dummy

it's all baroque

and apparently a great example of what the art style is meant to be

those catholics wanted to be ✧dramatic✧

todd anderson

and that's it??

just fancy dramatic architecture

neil perry

yes

you know you can be so stupid sometimes

todd anderson

thank you

i take pride in my stupidity

neil perry

did you write your paper for english

todd anderson

you know what

today has been

art paper

listening to my morning jacket

stress

coffee

animal crossing

and texting you

so no

neil perry

MMJ??

what album

todd anderson

it still moves

:)

neil perry

good choice

maybe when you get back we can help each other with the english paper

and listen to MMJ on blast

todd anderson

if you start on the intro we have a deal

neil perry

but toddy

i hate intros

todd anderson

"toddy"???

😐

no intro no MMJ

neily

neil perry

i'll just listen to the national then :/

tips hat toddy

todd anderson

i hate you

put on about today though

neil perry

mystery boy stressing you out??

todd anderson

always <3

neil perry

i'll play about today then

just for you

and not bc i can relate

todd anderson

okay so

my "mystery boy" is stressing me out

but yours is making you want to sit and cry with a pint of ice cream

neil perry

is there a problem

todd anderson

um

have you figured out if he likes you back yet??

neil perry

god no

do you know how hard that is

todd anderson

clearly i do

but maybe we should make a deal

neil perry

i'm listening

todd anderson

we both have to tell our mystery crushes we like them

doesn't need to be obvious to him

but just make it somewhat known

neil perry

are you serious

you'd tell this guy you like him

you??????

todd anderson

i know

i've lost it

but i'm kind of tired of pretending i don't like him

idk

neil perry

so what you're thinking is

if we tell them

and they reject us

we'll have each other to lean on

todd anderson

yea

something like that

neil perry

and what if they feel the same

todd anderson

???

then we'd have boyfriends

what

neil perry

okay but

i mean

what's the likelihood they would feel the same

todd anderson

for you? 100%

for me? 2%

neil perry

HAHA

that's a good joke

real funny one

todd anderson

i'm

it's just the truth

neil perry

yea

and you’re the guy i like

so

todd anderson

now that

that's a good joke

neil

???

guess i'll see you when i'm done with the project

Chapter End Notes

no i'm not projecting all of this what do you mean

music references:

title is from pink rabbits by the national
it still moves is by my morning jacket
about today is by the national

Chapter 5: you come around, i feel so down, i'm gonna drown

Chapter Summary

a mini conversation between neil and charlie? more likely than you think

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

neil perry

charlie

charlieeeee

charles dalton

what the hell are you doing that you aren't answering me

charlie dalton

sorry i was picking up the food i ordered

what's up

neil perry

we have a situation

charlie dalton

is it todd related

neil perry

very much

i said i liked him

and he didn't believe me

he thought i was telling it jokingly

after he wanted me to tell my "mystery boy" how i felt

i think it's safe to assume he doesn't like me

charlie dalton

wait

you really did that???

and why does he want you to tell him so badly

neil perry

idk

he said he was tired of pretending

but why is this so hard

why does it feel like i ruined everything

am i overreacting

charlie dalton

yes

you're always overreacting

maybe he didn't understand the conversation entirely

maybe he thought you really were joking

neil perry

he's coming back soon

what do i do

charlie dalton

i think you know what you should do

but you'll end up deflecting

so just put on the bakman tapes and cry in your bed

if you think he wouldn't feel the same

neil perry

and what if i'm wrong

charlie dalton

then you tell him

show him how you feel

make him a playlist

just don't fuck it up

neil perry

thanks

charlie dalton

if he rejects you my door is open

neil perry

<3

Chapter End Notes

music references:

title is from all i want by susie suh
the bakman tapes is by susie suh

Chapter 6: don't be my last strange encounter

Chapter Summary

and now for a conversation between todd and knox featuring angst <3

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

todd anderson

hey

can i get your advice on something?

knox overstreet

sure

what's up

todd anderson

i wanna tell neil how i feel

but every time i think about it i feel like i'm having a panic attack

and i think i upset him somehow

he just left me on read

am i making too much out of nothing??

knox overstreet

well

i can hear feather in the wind playing over there

so we might have a problem

todd anderson

really?

he said he was gonna play the national

knox overstreet

that is unmistakably susie suh's voice

todd anderson

shit

i'll be done soon

do you think i should tell him tonight??

knox overstreet

depends on what he's moping about

if you really did upset him then maybe

if he's upset about something he didn't mention to you then probably not

todd anderson

and what if i tell him and he doesn't feel the same

or what if i freak him out too much

knox overstreet

if you don't think he feels the same you're ridiculous

but in the off chance he doesn't you know where to find me or charlie

todd anderson

yea okay

thanks

knox overstreet

no problem

neil perry

maybe don't come back tonight

todd anderson

what

what did you do??

neil

neil what happened

i'm coming back now

please don't tell me you did something stupid

todd anderson

knox

i need you to check on neil for me

knox overstreet

why what happened

todd anderson

idk he said not to come back to the dorm tonight

and i'm on my way back

but you're already there so please just make sure he's okay

knox overstreet

okay

he's just sitting in the windowsill

i think he's crying

let me ask him what's wrong

todd anderson

ask him if it's my fault

knox overstreet

he said it is

todd anderson

fuck

okay

i'll be there in a minute

just make sure he doesn't do anything worse

knox overstreet

you have my word anderson

Chapter End Notes

i actually hate this one bye

music references:

title is from strange encounter by father john misty
feather in the wind is by susie suh

Chapter 7: you're all i want to want to know

Chapter Summary

!! tw for mentions of self harm and mr perry being the world's greatest (worst) dad

also, this is the first chapter without texts so if it's bad i'm sorry. i wrote it at 4am after procrastinating it all night while listening to the songs neil plays in the chapter and i didn't like where it was going At All but here it is

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

todd barely made it through the door before he heard muffled yelling coming from his room.

"you've been doing great lately! why throw that away over a crush?"

"it's not just a crush, knox! you've known that for months!"

"don't throw it away because of todd. he'd never forgive you if you did."

"what does he care?"

"neil, you know i love you, but you can be so ignorant sometimes. he fucking loves you. he comes to charlie and i all the time and goes on about how much he likes you and you know *how bad his anxiety gets. it scares him... trying to tell you how he feels. so before you go and throw away over a year's worth of being clean because you think he hates you, just know he feels the same as you."*

todd stood frozen in the kitchen, losing his grip on his books and not processing that they had fallen to the floor with a loud thud. the yelling stopped and knox stepped out from the room to make sure everything was okay.

“you alright?”

“what? oh, i’m fine. how- how is he?”

“you should talk to him. i think you’d get through to him better than me.”

“okay.”

he made his way over to the door, quietly opening and closing it. neil was playing a sufjan stevens song as he tried to wipe his tears away.

“i guess knox told you?”

“uh, no, he didn’t.”

“i was being stupid, it doesn’t matter now.”

“i-i heard him say you shouldn’t relapse over me. what... what was that about?”

“nothing, it's- i haven't done that in a long time."

"if it was nothing i'd expect you to be happy, not crying."

todd was now standing in front of neil, watching his eyes stare at the stars in the sky. the song changed to an old radiohead song todd faintly recognized from one of the playlists charlie sent him last week.

"you know i've been friends with charlie and knox for years, right?"

"yea, since you were kids. why?"

"you would hate the person i was before you met me. i mean... i was a mess. before i turned eighteen i had to do whatever my parents told me to, and they could get away with it because i wasn't technically an adult yet. but the last year of high school, i got a little rebellious, because i was almost old enough to be my own person, so i tried out for the school play. nothing major really, just a shakespeare story, but i got the part and it took everything i had to try to keep it from my parents. i guess someone told my father on accident and he... he wasn't happy with me. told me i had to quit or i wouldn't be able to hang out with my friends for the rest of the year. i told him acting was important to me and he let me stay but i wasn't allowed to do another play after that."

he stopped for a moment and looked directly at todd, who had decided to sit across from neil.

"everyone told me i was really good that night, and maybe they were right, but i can't- i don't remember. all i know is my father came and took me home that night and- and it wasn't good. i know you know he wasn't a good parent to me but i never told you how he acted when he found me."

“where did he find you? what did you do?”

“it was really stupid! i was so stupid... i used a steak knife on my arm in the hopes i would go too far with it. *god*, he hated me after that.”

“you... you...”

“yea, i did. wasn’t the last time, but i promise i haven’t done it since i met you.”

“but what- why?”

“i was an idiot.”

“are you an idiot right now?”

“what?”

“knox didn’t want you to relapse, so i’m assuming you were at least considering it.”

“it would’ve been a mistake.”

todd reached his hand over to neil’s and held it lightly. it was something the two of them did when they were stressed out by something, as a means to say they weren’t alone. another song played on the laptop, this time by taylor swift.

“is it why you left me on read before? did i do something to upset you?”

“it’s not your fault, it’s mine.”

“*whatever* it is, i’m here.”

neil gave a soft smile and nodded.

“maybe we’re both idiots. maybe we’re too oblivious and stupid. you said you wanted both of us to tell our mystery boys that we liked them but... i did. jokingly, i guess.”

“what did he- wait. you- you were being serious?”

“yea. and listen, i get it if i’m not your-“

neil was silenced by todd pulling him closer and kissing him, only briefly but enough to make his point.

“i love you.”

“i love you too.”

Chapter End Notes

i promise it's not all downhill from here I PROMISE

music references:

chapter title is from anaheim by nicole zefanya
the sufjan stevens song playing is concerning the ufo sighting near highland, illinois
the radiohead song playing is bullet proof... i wish i was
the taylor swift song playing is exile ft. bon iver

Chapter 8: sometimes i worry that i'm just another migraine

Chapter Summary

!! tw for slight homophobia bc we all know todd has the world's worst parents

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

neil perry

okay

you're listening to SKIN

so what's up

todd anderson

jeff told everyone he's engaged this morning

and i know my mom will call me and talk about it for hours

neil perry

tell her you can't talk

you're too busy with your new boyfriend :)

todd anderson

the day i come out to my mother is the day i listen to chipmunks unironically

so never

neil perry

chipmunks!!

wait

you never told me your parents didn’t know

mine hate me for it but what’s new

todd anderson

they aren’t really worried about me and who i date

neil perry

really??

how bad are they

todd anderson

they forget my birthday every year

and give me the same late gift too

as if i liked it the first time they bought it

neil perry

so you just haven't come out bc you think it wouldn't make a difference or???

todd anderson

no

i haven't come out bc i know they're homophobic

neil perry

oh

i'm sorry

todd anderson

it's not terrible i guess

just can't ever be myself around my family

neil perry

todd

if you'd told me this sooner i would've brought you home with me over break

todd anderson

i didn't want to inconvenience you

and i'm used to it anyway

neil perry

next break we go on you're coming home with me

and by that i mean we aren't going to see my parents at all

we're gonna kindly take money from them and book a hotel <3

todd anderson

do you always do that

neil perry

sometimes

mostly when it’s spring break or something and i had to stay back to “study”

which was code for doing stupid shit with charlie

and listening to him complain about how oblivious knox was before they got together

todd anderson

guess that's our dorm's thing

neil perry

well

can’t argue with that

todd anderson

do you think i’ll even get invited to the wedding

neil perry

you’re his brother

i would assume yes

todd anderson

you’re gonna be my plus one then

i don’t care if i’m not even out to them

neil perry

okay

i’ll convince jeff to get a DJ so we can listen to taylor and cry

todd anderson

jeff is like. the straightest guy you’ll ever meet

and he loves taylor swift

neil perry

must be his home state pride

todd anderson

OH YEA

she’s from PA isn’t she

shitty home state twins <3

neil perry

let’s just hire her to play the wedding

todd anderson

CAN YOU IMAGINE

i think i’d die

neil perry

let me just pull some imaginary strings and make it happen

todd anderson

you're the best neil <3

neil perry

i try

now go listen to speak now

i have some comments

todd anderson

anything for you honey

<3

neil perry

honey 🥺

...❤

Chapter End Notes

music references:

title is from celadon by rav + kill bill: the rapper + scuare
skin is by rav + kill bill: the rapper + scuare
the chipmunks reference is those covers (alvin and the) chipmunks did of 80s songs. if you're really curious just look up chipmunks on 16 speed. idk how else to describe it lmao
speak now is by taylor swift

additional note: yes i am projecting onto todd 100%. i also am making a hc that the andersons originally lived in PA.
and i'm not the world's biggest taylor fan (actually not a fan at all) but it felt fitting to include her given this fanbase’s adoration for her

Chapter 9: fill your heart and soul with tears

Chapter Summary

i don't know what this is. but todd calling neil honey is <3

this chapter is brought to you by bbc atlantis bc i just finished it and i'm sad

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

neil perry

toddyyyyy

todd anderson

neilyyyyy

i know you're drunk

and we're sitting across from each other

neil perry

oh yea

hey you look really cute

todd anderson

you too honey

since you want to text me what's your song choice rn

neil perry

test drive!!!

todd anderson

good choice

neil perry

wait todd

toddddddd

don’t leave me

:(

todd anderson

i’m still in front of you

but let me ask you something

are you sad drunk or happy drunk

neil perry

💔 wait no

💔

fuck

SIRI PUT A BROKEN HEART EMOJI

💔 – Sent with Siri

todd anderson

i’m glad you have your dumb moments

neil perry

i am dumb

?

todd anderson

yes

big dummy

neil perry

:(

meanie

todd anderson

love you too

is it alright if i grab you some water?

neil perry

no don’t leave me

todd anderson

the kitchen is right there

you can literally turn around and watch me

neil perry

but he'll

todd anderson

what

neil perry

i can't lose you

todd anderson

you won't

why are you so worried about losing me to the gods if i get you some water??

are you sure you're just drunk and not. idk. hallucinating or something??

neil perry

he was here

knox said he was here

todd anderson

you mean pittsie?

he came over to help knox with something earlier

neil perry

no

it was my dad

he was here

todd anderson

when???

i haven't seen your dad in months

and he never comes to visit you

neil perry

idk he was. here

mad at me

yelling

todd anderson

oh honey

i think that was just a bad dream

you were napping earlier

neil perry

are you sure

todd anderson

yes

i wouldn't lie to you

neil perry

i love you toddy

todd anderson

i love you too

now can i get you water?

neil perry

only if you put some niki on

todd anderson

deal

Chapter End Notes

music references:

title is from i will sing you songs by my morning jacket
test drive is by joji

Chapter 10: live through this, and you won't look back

Chapter Summary

> if it wasn't obvious i am 100% projecting my own atlantis rewatch onto the boys bc it bothers me that a show so good got cancelled :/ but if you like greek mythology and such i really recommend it!!!

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

todd anderson

what do you wanna get for tonight?

neil perry

ooh

some wine would be nice

even though we're technically underage still ❤

popcorn and cheetos!!

if no wine then at least some lemonade or something

todd anderson

good choices

do you have it set up yet

neil perry

i'm working on it

vibing to some metronomy rn

are all of us watching together?

todd anderson

of course

who would want to miss watching a show as wondrous as atlantis??

neil perry

BBC, apparently

todd anderson

:/

don't remind me

neil perry

ooh wait

what about oreos

todd anderson

the regular ones or

neil perry

the birthday cake ones

todd anderson

birthday cake??

okay

neil perry

thank you love <3333

todd anderson

anything for you honey

neil perry

what do you think S2 will be like

will the straights get a happy ending??

todd anderson

they always do

but i think they'll take forever to get there

neil perry

how else would they entertain us

todd anderson

jason will go shirtless for one second and they have you drooling

neil perry

did you have to call me out like that

todd anderson

yes :)

but i can't deny jason is attractive

he's no neil perry but he is something

neil perry

that's hard to believe

todd anderson

he might be fuckin ripped but he's like.....the biggest himbo of them all

and you have way more personality than him

but hey we all have daddy issues am i right <333

neil perry

.....

i'm going to pretend i did not just see you typed out daddy issues

and listen to eternally even until you return

todd anderson

you're gonna listen to jim james without me??

:(

neil perry

then hurry home

:)

Chapter End Notes

music references:

title is from your ex-lover is dead by stars
the metronomy song in question is the light
eternally even is by jim james

Chapter 11: confetti rainfall in a quiet street

Chapter Summary

this is purely inspired by me getting mario kart on the switch for a late christmas present
and this chapter is to make up for a sad chapter coming soon :)

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

neil perry

do we have mario kart??

todd anderson

i think so

idk though

you wanna play mario kart later?

neil perry

well you know i have a paper to write

but i can't write the entire thing in one sitting

so why not take a break and play mario kart

todd anderson

as long as i get to be isabelle

neil perry

i'll be yoshi then

todd anderson

regular yoshi??

blue yoshi??

which one

neil perry

there's a pink one right

todd anderson

probably

neil perry

then pink yoshi it is

todd anderson

you'd look cute in pink

neil perry

you think so?

i mean i can test that

i have an old pink tee buried somewhere in the dresser

todd anderson

if you aren't wearing that when i get done with class i'm making us only do rainbow road courses

neil perry

bold

if i can find it i promise i'll be wearing it

todd anderson

who do you think knox and charlie will play as

neil perry

knox would choose someone like waluigi

and charlie would pick wario so they could be the annoying duo

todd anderson

maybe we should be a duo too

like we both be princesses or something

neil perry

but yosh :(

todd anderson

fine

we'll be the non-human duo

neil perry

the unsung heroes duo

todd anderson

i miss when people didn't hate on isabelle for bein nice

it's not her fault mr nintendo wanted to make her a little boring :(

neil perry

she's still adorable so those losers can stfu

todd anderson

neil perry said isabelle rights you heard it here first!!

neil perry

oh

well todd anderson's spotify said nugu rights!!

todd anderson

forgot you stalk me in the friend activity

either way nugu groups are cool

don't deny it

neil perry

hey i'm not denying anything

you know i listen to QOS

their range is so □

todd anderson

you know

i hear you singing along sometimes

and it's really cute

neil perry

oh dear god

did you hear when i was singing along to their christmas covers??

todd anderson

yes

neil perry

bye

todd anderson

:/

rude

neil perry

you can't say i have a nice voice

todd anderson

are you kidding me???

why do you think i ask you sometimes at night to tell me a story or read a poem or just anything

why do you think i want to hear your voice

neil perry

i figured it was because you like me

is that not it??

todd anderson

some nights i start thinking about everything and it sucks

i get really anxious and scared

and the one thing that calms me down is your voice

your presence helps too

knowing you're next to me

knowing you're closer to the door so if we get attacked i won't be first
<3

neil perry

thanks

i'm glad i can do that for you though

todd anderson

me too :)

Chapter End Notes

music references:

title is from chase this light by jimmy eat world
nugu is a reference to lesser-known kpop groups
QOS (queens of sound) is a kpop group

Chapter 12: are you truly in love, absolutely in love?

Chapter Summary

not sure if there should be a tw for this but mrs. anderson is overall a horrible parent here :)

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

neil perry

todd

toddy

where are you

your class ended an hour ago

what's going on

todd anderson

sorry

my mom called

said she wanted to have lunch with me today

i know it'll just make things worse

neil perry

i can join you

make it less awkward

todd anderson

she wouldn't want that

as much as i would love to have you there

neil perry

well screw what she wants

she shouldn't treat you the way she does

neither should your dad

todd anderson

i know

but i can't stand up to them

if i do it won't make a difference

neil perry

i'll make sure it makes a difference

where does she want to get lunch

todd anderson

tony's

the italian place down the street

neil perry

shit

we eatin fancy today

todd anderson

neil

neil perry

i won't let you sit there with her alone

just tell her i invited myself

i'm sure she'll assume you didn't tell me no

todd anderson

if she says anything about us i don't know what i'd do

neil perry

if she makes a comment we'll leave :)

i don't have time for ignorant homophobes

todd anderson

i don't know how to thank you for this

neil perry

you can watch me play some animal crossing and put whatever music you want on

todd anderson

sounds like a plan

can you be at tony's in half an hour?

neil perry

of course

i love you toddy

todd anderson

i love you neil

neil could immediately tell mrs. anderson was putting on her best "it's good to see you!" smile while she was mentally judging her own son for bringing his backpack into such a fancy restaurant.

"how are you, mr. perry?" she asked, not once looking away from todd, who was desperately trying to shove his bag under the table.

"i'm doing good, mrs. anderson. and you?"

"just fine, darling."

"what brings you into town?"

"oh, i just wanted to see todd for a moment. it felt easier to do this in person, over the phone is much too informal."

neil nodded and forced a smile, looking at the menu for a distraction. he also wanted to order the most expensive food, because he wasn't the one paying.

"todd, my dear, you know your brother is engaged to be married, yes?"

"uh, y-yes, mother," todd could barely speak. he had suddenly reverted back to the boy neil met the first day they moved into the dorm.

"well, it is in our best interests that we give jeffery the best wedding possible. your father and i are selling the house, and we'll be moving to virginia. i presume we'll be there by the end of the month, and then we'll start on the wedding preparations."

"y-you... you're moving? but what- what about me?"

"oh, todd, you'll stay here, of course. you like living in that dorm of yours, yes?"

"i-i'm not allowed to spend the summer here-"

"then you'll need to rent a hotel room. your housing is up to you, it is no longer my concern."

"but-"

“i cannot negotiate this with you. we’ve already found someone to buy the house. anything you’ve left there will be... discarded.”

neil set the menu down and stared directly at mrs. anderson.

“excuse me, mrs. anderson, but why are you so insistent on forgetting you have two sons? why do you treat todd like he’s not your own?”

“mr. perry, you have no right to accuse me of such a thing!”

“with all due respect, i think i do. i live with todd, i know him far better than you ever have, and i know he feels neglected by you. your only affection goes toward jeff, and todd never stood a chance.”

“if i have treated him poorly it is only because jeffery is far more open with us, and he is content with carrying on his father’s wishes. todd’s only desire is to become an author, completely turn against his father’s wants, and live with boys like you. if you feel we have abandoned him, take a moment and see that it is quite the opposite.”

“you’re... unbelievable.”

“i’m sorry?”

“i wanted to come here because i knew you’d try to pull something over todd. and i can’t just sit by and let it happen to him any longer. i for one think it’s a great thing you’re moving away and abandoning your son, because i never want to see you here again.”

"what gives you the right to speak to me this way?"

"look, mrs. anderson, i'm not going to tell you how to be a parent, but you should at least acknowledge your favoritism. don't just... *assume* todd is better off because he's nothing like jeff."

"no wonder he doesn't listen to us, he's friends with you."

"he doesn't listen to you because-"

"neil, please," todd mumbled, grabbing neil's hand underneath the table. neil saw the pleading in his eyes and let go of whatever he was about to say.

"my apologies, mrs. anderson. i won't disrespect you any longer, but with that being said, todd and i have to go."

"you didn't even eat any-"

"we're very busy people. see you at the wedding!"

neil led todd outside and they sat on a bench nearby, with neil trying not to start screaming and todd trying to stay as calm as possible.

"i'm sorry for calling her out, but i couldn't just sit there and let her talk that way to you. i dealt with it far too much at home."

"they're... they're leaving me here. i-i don't have a home anymore."

"come live with me."

"i couldn't ask that of you."

"i wouldn't mind having you around, you know. and if my parents have a problem with it they'll just have to deal with it."

"you really wouldn't mind?"

"todd, i love you. of course i wouldn't mind."

"thank you."

"sorry we didn't stay to eat but i'm sure charlie could make us something. i think he's trying to be america's next best chef or something, probably to impress knox."

"at least he's good at it."

"you wanna go back and play animal crossing?"

"of course."

Chapter End Notes

the internal struggle of not knowing if it's jeffery or jeffrey anderson :')

music references:

title is from hag by band of horses

Chapter 13: if you had not have fallen, then i would not have found you

Chapter Summary

> man idk what this chapter is and i've just realized i have no idea where this is going or when i'll end it. but this is purely projection and i don't think i meant to make jeff this bad of a dude but hey. i don't know what it's like to have a good relationship with a sibling who is older and vastly more successful than me <3

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

neil perry

hey

i saw jeff was calling you before

what did he want?

todd anderson

i didn’t answer

i don’t want to talk to him

neil perry

maybe he disagrees with what your parents are doing

todd anderson

no

it was his idea

him and his perfect little fiancée

neil perry

is he really that bad

todd anderson

when they were moving into their house i was dragged along to help

and my anxiety was through the roof

but i knew if i mentioned that they'd just tell me i was making excuses to not help carry boxes out

so i sat in the corner pretending to do something on my phone just to try to calm down

but jeff didn't like that

and he took the opportunity to scream at me for being stupid and selfish

that i should've just stayed in my room and isolated myself from everyone so they wouldn't be so miserable seeing me

neil he told me if i didn't want to help i should just die

and he meant it wholeheartedly

neil perry

i'm so sorry

i knew he was bad but not that bad

tbh

you shouldn't even go to his wedding

todd anderson

he’s my brother

neil perry

so???

he’ll never show you genuine emotion

you deserve better than that

todd anderson

maybe so

but maybe he can change

maybe some part of him is capable of that

neil perry

no he's not

you know he's not

if you could leave your family behind i know you would in an instant

and i'm sorry you're stuck with them

but seriously

you don't owe your brother anything

you don't owe your parents anything

if you don't go to this wedding and they make a deal about it i'll call them out

i'll make sure they never fuck with you again

todd anderson

neil it's not that bad

neil perry

not that bad???

i've heard you cry yourself to sleep because you just got back from break and they didn't once acknowledge you

if that isn't bad i don't know what is

todd anderson

i don't wanna talk about this anymore

can we just... talk about clarity or something??

neil perry

of course

you wanna listen to it together?

todd anderson

if you're not busy

neil perry

i'm never busy <3

Chapter End Notes

music references:

title is from angel flying too close to the ground by willie nelson (hello anderperry vibes???)
clarity is by jimmy eat world

Chapter 14: you can still survive, but not exactly live

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

neil perry

y'know i was expecting you to be waiting for me when i got out of the shower but charlie said you ran out of here

todd??

todd anderson

sorry

i had to get out of there

neil perry

something happen?

todd anderson

just overwhelmed myself

thought about everything going on y'know

and i'm not comfortable enough with you to just waltz in the bathroom and talk to you when i know you're naked

neil perry

fair

but you could've talked to charlie

i know you told them what happened but they're still a little lost on it

he would've helped as much as he could

todd anderson

i know

i guess it's just easier with you because you saw it for yourself

neil perry

i completely understand

what are you listening to rn?

bc i know you aren't just walking around campus in silence

todd anderson

jimmy eat world

surviving

the album not the song

the song would be 555

neil perry

well that's good

at least you're not listening to invented or damage

we'd have some problems then

todd anderson

hey they’re good albums

neil perry

oh i know

but if you listen to them you’re automatically depressed i don’t make the rules :)

todd anderson

you aren't wrong though

neil perry

are you going to stay outside for a while

todd anderson

i don't want to bother you with all of this

i know i'm being really annoying about it

neil perry

todd no

you aren't being annoying

being abandoned by your family is not something i'd expect anyone to be okay with

if you need to talk about it you can

i won't ever be bothered by that

todd anderson

it's just

i know they didn't care before

but leaving me here??

i never expected they could be such assholes

neil perry

i know

it's not fair

but maybe this is an opportunity for you to finally be free of them

whether or not you decide to go to jeff's wedding is up to you

but after that you don't have to keep in contact with them

they don't deserve your attention anymore

todd anderson

wow

thank you for that

neil perry

of course

you know i'd do anything for you

todd anderson

i appreciate that a lot

<3

neil perry

when you get back can we do some island tours in animal crossing

i wanna get a new villager

todd anderson

hell yes

Chapter End Notes

music references:

title is from surviving by jimmy eat world
surviving, 555, damage, and invented are by jimmy eat world

Chapter 15: my world is sinking, and i am the captain of it all

Chapter Summary

short chapter is short. and everyone just knows todd is going through it rn he has a terrible poker face

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

neil perry

hey sorry if i'm waking you

and sorry i'm not next to you

but i just

i went to the store and looked around for some coffee things

and i saw keating just smiling contently at the section of tea bags

so i of course said hi

he said he was on a late-night snack run for his wife

and then he asked what i was doing there

but i don't know what i was doing

anyway he asked how you were doing since you haven't really talked much in class

i didn't tell him anything you wouldn't want him to know but i think he's gonna give you a little more time for the essay

todd anderson

is that all you woke me up for

neil perry

todd!!!

sorry

i'm a little tipsy

and you know i talk a lot when i'm tipsy

todd anderson

is something wrong that you're out at midnight???

when have you ever gone to the store at midnight for coffee???

neil perry

okay so maybe i needed to take a walk

in the middle of the night

and not tell anyone where i was going

while listening to currents

todd anderson

your dad called

am i right

neil perry

maybe

todd anderson

did you tell him we're together

neil perry

no

he wouldn't care

he'd still hate me just as much as when i was single

he just wanted to talk about jeff's wedding

apparently your parents want to invite my parents

i didn't know they were such good friends

todd anderson

now we really aren't going to that stupid wedding

can we just stay home and watch a bunch of cheesy romcoms together instead

neil perry

that sounds wonderful

just the two of us or?

todd anderson

all of us

not just charlie and knox

but meeks and pitts too

neil perry

alright

sounds like a plan to me

todd anderson

are you planning on coming back any time soon?

neil perry

well

i'm sitting on a chair in the patio section

outside

so idk

it's really cold but it's just. comfy

todd anderson

don't die of hypothermia please <3

neil perry

if you're really concerned send charlie to come get me

todd anderson

um

they'd only encourage you to stay outside

neil perry

then get the responsible one

todd anderson

okay

i expect you to come back and wake me up again with your giggling and shit

neil perry

you know drunk me so well <3

Chapter End Notes

cameron isn't really there because?? idk i don't know how to write him
oh also!! if you see me alternate between he and they for charlie it's just my hc that he'd use he/they

music references:

title is from royal screw up by soccer mommy
currents is by tame impala

Chapter 16: i can't take the pressure and it's starting to show

Chapter Summary

keating makes them choose a poem that they can really relate to, no matter how stupid/important it may be.

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

todd anderson

did you figure out what poem you're doing yet

i wanted to use a thomas hardy one

neil perry

oh!

would keating accept a bo burnham poem

todd anderson

depends on what it is

neil perry

i wanna go with either "hanged" or "ashley"

todd anderson

are you okay

neil perry

yea!! i just really love those ones

hanged is like. how i felt back then

and ashley is how i feel now

not everyday but i have my moments

todd anderson

you'd tell me if you weren't okay though right

cause if you went with hanged

idk man

i don't think about it often bc you said it was in the past

but i sometimes wonder if you've felt that way when you're with me and just never said anything

neil perry

you'd be the first to know if i wanted to do that again

i promise

todd anderson

thank you

neil perry

what thomas hardy poem did you want to use?

todd anderson

oh

it's "a night in november"

idk why

it kind of reminds me of going home for thanksgiving last year

before i ever knew you liked me back

i wished more than anything you could've been there

and we could've been less stupid about our feelings

like the last line

"and saying at last you knew!"

it fits don't you think

neil perry

oh yea 100%

i felt that way too

though my thanksgiving was a little worse than that

but who has time to unpack all of that

todd anderson

i think you should go with hanged

neil perry

why

todd anderson

because i know you

i know you haven't told anyone outside of our mutual friends about what happened

and i know how it feels to bottle things up and never speak of them because you're afraid people will reject you once they know who you really are

i also know that by telling other people how you feel it doesn't seem as bad

it might still be horrible and unbearable at times but at least you know you aren't entirely alone y'know??

neil perry

yea

i get that completely

thank you for your input

i hope yours goes over well with keating

i know he knows about us but you were really closed off back then

todd anderson

don't remind me

but i'm sure he'd love it

just be prepared if he wants to ask you why you chose yours

neil perry

duh

you think i'd go in there without an analysis of why it fits my situation??

todd anderson

sometimes i don't know about you hon

neil perry

hon??

okay

planning my funeral now

todd anderson

☺

Chapter End Notes

both "hanged" and "ashley" are poems from bo burnham's book egghead!!! feel free to look them up and read them to feel less confused about todd's reaction

music references:

title is from waking up by elastica

Chapter 17: and i'm savin' all the bold lines, i'll say 'em while you sleep

Chapter Summary

!! small tw for references to relapsing/suicide attempt

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

neil perry

todd

what are you doing rn

todd anderson

on my way to class why

what'd you do

neil perry

what makes you think i did something

am i not allowed to text my wonderful boyfriend???

todd anderson

you normally don't text me when i have class and you don't

neil perry

okay well maybe i missed you

todd anderson

you saw me before i left

neil perry

for ten seconds

todd anderson

hey it’s not my fault you sleep in

but really what’s up

neil perry

idk

i was listening to moonchild for a bit

started thinking about you

like. when i introduced you to zephyr

and you were like !!!!!

we were still avoiding our feelings of course

but i remember it felt so nice to just

make someone happy like that

todd anderson

when you showed me spell i honestly thought you were trying to imply something

but then i shut myself down bc why would you want to do that with me

neil perry

god we're both so fucked up

somehow i wouldn't want it any other way

but i think that's stupid

to be scared of getting better because the pain starts to feel comforting somehow

.....even though i am that

todd anderson

i know

sometimes i think i'll never escape what my family put me through

and then i look at my phone screen and see that stupid picture of you and i at the halloween party as my wallpaper and i think how lucky i am

seeing you makes me have hope that i can actually do this

that i can get out of here alive and be who i want and make a name for myself

that i'm not just jeff's shadow anymore

so yea pain might be comforting because it's what you know

but you owe it to yourself to at least try

neil perry

wait you made that your wallpaper???

todd

todd anderson

yes but don't change the subject <3

neil perry

fine

i know what you're saying

being here is actually what i considered to be "trying"

after the night of the play i didn't want to do anything for myself

i was ready to just give up on what i wanted because that night made it so much harder to be able to do anything

but then my parents wanted me to at least go to college

if i wanted to do my own thing that was fine, so long as i had a degree to fall back on

and let me tell you todd it was not easy getting here

i'm so fucking grateful for meeting you here and having you in my life

but if it weren't for charlie's constant caring and trying to help me we never would've met

i mean

you know i haven't relapsed since before we met

it was bad

hospital bad

or it would've been if i had actually gone to one

todd anderson

wait

you tried it more than once?

neil perry

yes

but only twice

todd anderson

you promise you haven't done anything?

neil perry

i promise

todd anderson

thank you

class is about to start but you can keep texting

just don't freak out if i don't reply right sway

i don't want to be yelled at today

neil perry

okay

well

i was freaking out about getting textbooks

they seemed way too expensive to be able to afford them

and then my dad wanted to argue that i could afford it so i was stressed even more

ended up not getting the books

charlie got them for me bc his parents are outrageously rich

and that night i had the worst fucking panic attack of my life

i didn't even know what was going on

i just saw something around me i could use and i relapsed

not proud of it but i felt so scared

i was afraid of what would happen if i had made my parents pay for the initial costs and such only to drop out

needless to say i never found out

charlie was trying everything they could to convince me going to college would help me get away and be myself

and he was right

being here has been the best thing to happen to me

some days it doesn't feel like it

most days i just want to stay in bed and play animal crossing all day

but then i think about you and it's not so bad

i've never been in love before but it feels okay knowing you love me too

i'm getting cheesy i'll shut up

todd anderson

wow a whole essay □

jkjk

thank you for telling me

i'm glad you can trust me with this

gotta go now for real

but hey

i love you

go put on some paramore :)

neil perry

ooh pmore

alright

i love you too toddy

Chapter End Notes

music references:

title is from strange land by niki (the acoustic ver.)
spell, zephyr, and moonchild are by niki

Chapter 18: so what do people sing about once they finally found it?

Chapter Summary

> i wanted to write a charlie and todd chapter because it just felt right

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

todd anderson

hey

you busy?

charlie dalton

not particularly no

why

todd anderson

i wanted to ask you about something

charlie dalton

okay

what's up

todd anderson

is it wrong of me to be so overwhelmed right now

about neil and my parents and everything

charlie dalton

no

i can't see how you wouldn't be stressing out right now

what's overwhelming you about neil though

what happened

todd anderson

he really opened up to me earlier

about what happened before we met

and how you helped him

which is great. like i'm not complaining about that

it's just

i wish he didn't have to go through that

and i know dealing with that isn't something that just goes away when you want it to

i've never felt suicidal but some days my anxiety is so terrible i don't understand why i'm not alone

some days it's like i'm just so goddamn unimportant to everyone

but that shit doesn't leave when neil gets back from class and gives that smile of his

i still think about it even as he's holding me close at night

wondering why i'm ever there in the first place

sorry i went off there

charlie dalton

don't be sorry

i'm glad you can let it out somewhere

and you know neil loves you

he's loved you since the day you met

he used to be much worse than he is now

i helped a lot because i was annoying him everyday to try a little harder

but i still thought he was going to try something again

then he met you and became so preoccupied with you that the idea of dying had slipped from his mind for a while

and of course when he came to me about having a crush on you he was scared

his father never approved of him being gay and it made him worry that any guy he'd fall for would be just like his dad

that's why it took a while for him to confess to you

wasn't anything personal

as for what you're going through??

i get it

my anxiety isn't as bad as yours but i still have it from time to time

not like a "oh i'm doing a presentation in front of the whole class" kind of anxiety

more like yours, believe it or not

but don't let that shit ruin you

don't let it control everything

i know it's hard but you can do that

todd anderson

what about my parents

what do you think i should do

charlie dalton

i say fuck em

if they want to abandon you for jeff then let them

keep taking their money though

they owe you that much at least

todd anderson

you can be surprisingly helpful

charlie dalton

i'm selectively nice

:)

todd anderson

i feel the love

Chapter End Notes

music references:

title is from trigger by hayley williams

Chapter 19: but if you hold me without hurting me, you'll be the first who ever did

Chapter Summary

> this is 100% projection of my own experience, however with a vastly different outcome because todd deserves better than what i got. so uhh if my ex is somehow reading this, just don't

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

todd anderson

hey

i need to tell you something

neil perry

oh god

what'd you do

todd anderson

nothing!! nothing i swear

i just need you to know this

i don't want to keep it from you

neil perry

okay what's up

todd anderson

i don’t want you to automatically assume this means i don’t love you anymore

because i do

more than anything

neil perry

now you’re just scaring me

todd anderson

sorry

also sorry this is over text i wish i wasn’t scared to say it out loud

but i think i might be asexual

neil perry

oh todd

that’s great!!

todd anderson

what

neil perry

did you think i was going to break up with you???

todd anderson

i don’t know

i didn’t think you’d understand

i thought you’d be mad at me

like for not telling you before we got together

neil perry

todd

you don’t have to stick to one label forever

if you didn't understand it until now i'm not going to hold it against you

todd anderson

i know but this is kind of big

neil perry

it doesn’t change how i feel about you

i still love you

todd anderson

are you sure

bc i get it if you. idk. need sex in your life

neil perry

sex is overrated

i don’t need anything in my life except for you

...and father john misty

todd anderson

fair enough

i'm sorry i worried so much

i guess i should've known you'd be okay with it

neil perry

listen todd

i'm not your parents and i'm not mine

there are people that will accept you for who you are

and hey

if you later on tell me you aren't ace but you're something like demisexual i'll still love you

i won't stop loving you just because you're questioning labels

todd anderson

thank you

god i love you neil

i'm so happy i have you

oh my god

the librarian is giving me weird looks bc you made me cry

neil perry

at least they're happy tears

?

todd anderson

yes

super happy tears

neil perry

good

let the librarian stare daggers at you all she wants then

todd anderson

:')

Chapter End Notes

music references:

title is from cinnamon girl by lana del rey

Chapter 20: one more hour and you'll know your life is one to share

Chapter Summary

> this chapter is purely random and idk what it's meant to be but here you go

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

neil perry

i’m not saying that tame impala is my new obsession

but tame impala is my new obsession

todd anderson

tame impala has been your obsession since 2018

what are you on about now

neil perry

well yea

but don’t you ever have an artist that you listen to their whole discography but sometimes overlook an album because you like something else more

todd anderson

all the time

neil perry

i listened to the slow rush again

and i actually really love it

i know it reminds me of pretty much everything going on back when it came out but

it's a really good album

todd anderson

so you're revisiting an album that makes you think of your father being in the hospital because??

neil perry

because i'm trying to make myself think about other things when i listen to it

and how do you remember he was in the hospital

todd anderson

because every single time you played it might be time you were like "oh this reminds me of when dad was in the hospital"

and for as long as i've known you he's only been in the hospital once

neil perry

my mom told me he was there again today

idk what for

she wouldn't say

she has a tendency to leave details out to spare me of being upset i guess

todd anderson

do you think it's serious

neil perry

no

i think he's overexaggerating whatever it is

todd anderson

well you know we're here if you need anything

i know he's an ass but he's still family

and funerals are never fun

neil perry

but this one has potential!!

todd anderson

out of context that sounds horrible

but knowing it's a zach stone reference makes it okay

neil perry

i can't believe you didn't know about zach stone before we met

it's the world's best cancelled-too-soon show

todd anderson

i knew about bo but not the show ☺

but yes i'm mad it was cancelled

neil perry

should we rewatch it

todd anderson

we both have papers to write

neil perry

but it's only twelve episodes

:(

todd anderson

fine

but only if you don't pretend to be a chef again

neil perry

deal!!! deal deal deal!!!

i'm gonna pick up our food and then we're binging the whole show

todd anderson

love you <3

neil perry

love you too toddy <333

Chapter End Notes

music references:

title is from one more hour by tame impala
the slow rush and it might be time are from tame impala

p.s. zach stone is gonna be famous was a super short-lived show with a hell of a lot of secondhand embarrassment but it's a great show. and the reference they make is from the pilot episode, and todd saying he doesn't want neil to pretend to be a chef is in reference to the episode where zach attempts to become a famous chef

Chapter 21: i really thought you were the morning star, lying right next to me

Chapter Summary

> this was partly written while "watching" the super bowl so if it feels like my attention span was not 100% i am sorry

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

neil perry

uh oh

i see graham coxon playing

what's wrong now

todd anderson

let me listen to TEOTFW soundtrack in peace

neil perry

please

there's something in the way that you cry?

you don't listen to that when you're happy

what's wrong

todd anderson

i'm

panic

neil perry

you're panic???

what

todd anderson

panic attack

earlier

neil perry

in the library??

you okay??

todd anderson

i think

maybe not

neil perry

you want me to come down there and sit with you?

todd anderson

no

okay maybe

neil perry

what caused the panic attack

todd anderson

i don't know

i was looking for something for my stupid business class and it just happened

i don't think anyone was paying attention though

neil perry

okay

oh hey btw

my dad is fine

i guess they just wanted to do a checkup

todd anderson

a checkup at the hospital??

wack

neil perry

since when do you say wack

todd anderson

since 1992

neil perry

you were not born in 1992

todd anderson

i've been saying wack since birth though :(

neil perry

you're wack

but the good kind

todd anderson

didn't know there was a good wack

but okay

are you coming like. today or what

neil perry

sorry i'm slow

i'm on my way

todd anderson

honey you're slower than a turtle

neil perry

i have my moments thank you very much

todd anderson

"moments" more like your whole life

neil perry

:/

you're so loving when you're emotionally exhausted

todd anderson

sorry

my bad

could you maybe stop and get me some coffee <3

neil perry

only if we can listen to clean :)

todd anderson

deal

Chapter End Notes

realized i haven't plugged anything yet so hey if you wanna follow me on tumblr/twitter/instagram/etc my user is the same (datahearts) feel free to message me or smth on any of those <3

music references:

title is from she left the light on by graham coxon
there's something in the way that you cry is by graham coxon
TEOTFW is a netflix show (also a graphic novel) + the soundtrack was done by graham coxon

clean is an album by soccer mommy

Chapter 22: you seem so comfortable in your skin, while mine never seems to fit

Chapter Summary

neil is very depressed and charlie talks him through it :)

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

neil perry

do you ever think about how people would love to leave you but they don't because they don't want to be rude

charlie dalton

of course

but why you

neil perry

just that time of the week

my weekly breakdown ✧

charlie dalton

oh mood

neil perry

but really

would you leave me if i told you it wouldn't be rude

charlie dalton

neil perry i could never leave you

you know too much shit about me 💔

neil perry

seriously

charlie dalton

i'm not kidding

i'd never leave you

none of us would

neil perry

you don't think todd will get tired of me?

charlie dalton

no

god no

if you two don't get married i think the world would combust

neil perry

i love him a lot char

but christ some days are so hard i don't know why he's still with me

charlie dalton

for the same reasons i'm still here

todd loves you

he loves being around you

you're the only person he truly opens up to

it took him two weeks to tell the rest of us about his parents moving

i know it's fucking hard to think you deserve him sometimes but trust me on this

neil perry

how mad do you think he'd be if i did something bad

charlie dalton

how bad

neil perry

idk

but i don't think i'm okay right now

charlie dalton

then get your ass over here

we'll watch high school musical

neil perry

high school musical??

charlie dalton

it’s got music

and it’s a lil dumb

the perfect combo for you

neil perry

fine

but can you make some bagel bites first

<3

charlie dalton

i can make actual food and you want bagel bites??

okay

anything for you

neil perry

love youuu

Chapter End Notes

music references:

title is from time-tested by rav

Chapter 23: no one else wil have me, only you

Chapter Summary

this was a whirlwind to write. but it was purely fueled by father john misty albums <3

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

neil perry

glad you're back toddy

todd anderson

:/

we're both sitting on the couch

you don't wanna talk out loud??

neil perry

no

todd anderson

have you been crying

neil perry

what no

todd anderson

neil what’s wrong

you're listening to god's favorite customer don't tell me you're okay

neil perry

it's stupid

i'm stupid

todd anderson

whatever it is it's not stupid

and neither are you

neil perry

it's not as bad as what you're dealing with

i'm fine

todd anderson

no

we aren't doing that

we're not comparing shit

neil perry

but why would you care

todd anderson

?? because i love you

because we're friends

we're dating

do you want me to list them all

neil perry

sorry

todd anderson

no don’t be

i just want to help

because believe it or not, listening to we’re only people on loop is not therapy

neil perry

hey at least it’s affordable

todd anderson

you got me there

neil perry

you ever wonder what it would be like to having accepting parents

todd anderson

everyday

neil perry

before i actually came out there was an entire week where my father thought i was gay with no evidence supporting it

he just. gave me a big lecture about how he'd be okay with it and how i can trust him with that sort of thing

and you know from years of emotional hell i decided that wasn't the time to come out

so i stayed quiet

the following week he was back to his regular self

criticizing anyone that was lgbt+ for no reason other than wanting to be a dick

but i thought if i came out to them it wouldn't actually matter

i was so wrong

todd anderson

my parents do that too

criticize for no reason i mean

i'm sorry your parents don't accept you

neil perry

knox told me his parents weren't happy with him when he came out

said they wanted to kick him out but let him stay until he was out of school

because in their minds, bi people don't get jobs

todd anderson

hm

i'll have them know i'm gay and i have a job

neil perry

i'm sorry your parents are the kind of people they are

todd anderson

oh i'm fine with that

i don't even have to see them anymore

neil perry

but you can't be yourself around them

like yea my parents aren't the greatest people to be around but at least they know

not trying to imply anything btw

just feel bad for you ig

todd anderson

i know

but if i never come out to them i won't be upset about it

neil perry

that's fair

anyway sorry for being a bum

was completely unintentional

spotify was just like hey you've been listening to a lot of father john misty songs and your whole "on repeat" is just him!!

and i was like oh

this is depression <3

todd anderson

see this is why i worry

neil perry

would you rather i listen to hag on loop

todd anderson

...no

neil perry

alright then

you wanna listen to honeybear?

todd anderson

as long as i can play animal crossing

neil perry

of course :)

Chapter End Notes

music references:

title is from 23 by jimmy eat world
god's favorite customer, we're only people, and i love you,
honeybear are by father john misty
hag is by band of horses

Chapter 24: 'cause you're made from the stars that we watched from your car

Chapter Summary

> you know when you give something a title that has nothing to do with what you wrote? yea that's this one. also todd has a part time job at a coffee shop now bc of his parents leaving so <3

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

neil perry

how's the job going

todd anderson

not terrible ig

it's not really busy

neil perry

maybe i should come down and visit :)

todd anderson

don't you have a paper due tomorrow that you haven't started at all

neil perry

maybe

but charlie came home blasting jolene and i couldn't help but join them

todd anderson

so what are you doing now then

neil perry

listening to brand new eyes with knox

charlie's cooking something

todd anderson

i see

what would your chem prof think of you pulling a me tomorrow

neil perry

poems are different than papers honey

and i know how to bs my way through a chem paper

how do you think i made it to where i am today??

todd anderson

definitely not your looks and charm

neil perry

ouch

but thanks for implying i'm smart <3

todd anderson

of course

neil perry

when do you get off again??

todd anderson

7:30

neil perry

do you want charlie to make enough to have leftovers??

todd anderson

sure

neil perry

bold that you don't ask what he's making before agreeing to it

todd anderson

i trust charlie enough not to poison me

neil perry

very trustworthy

todd anderson

well at least they can cook

what can either you or i cook

neil perry

i can press buttons on the microwave

todd anderson

you're the next gordon ramsey

neil perry

i feel the love

todd anderson

my break's almost over so i'll see you later

love you

neil perry

love you too honey

Chapter End Notes

music references:

title is from scorpio rising by soccer mommy
jolene is by dolly parton
brand new eyes is by paramore

Chapter 25: another un-innocent, elegant fall into the un-magnificent lives of adults

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

todd anderson

neil

can you kill me

neil perry

what no

why would you even ask

todd anderson

i have to spend the weekend with jeff

they want to torture me neil

neil perry

they do not want to torture you

at least that isn't their intention

but why do you need to spend the weekend??

todd anderson

they want to do something for the wedding i think

idk

looking at venues or something

and jeff insisted i tag along

why does he hate me so much

neil perry

he doesn't hate you

i doubt he even realizes you hate being around him

todd anderson

i can't do this i don't wanna do it

neil please

just put me out of my misery

neil perry

i know it's gonna suck but i promise you'll be okay

i'll text you the entire time

send you music to listen to since you always have at least one earbud in

and when you get back we can be together

just the two of us

todd anderson

but you have plans with pittsie don't you??

neil perry

oh yea

but he won't mind

we're just going to the mall to find a gift for meeks

third? anniversary for them

todd anderson

oh yea

good for them

neil perry

do you remember the date we got together

todd anderson

nope

do you

neil perry

no

but i guess we could just go through our messages and figure it out

todd anderson

oh yea

neil perry

so wait when do you have to leave then

tonight or tomorrow

todd anderson

dad’s coming tonight to pick me up

surprised he still remembers i exist

neil perry

would you mind if i made you a road mix <3

since the drive is over an hour

todd anderson

you’d make me a road mix??

neil □

neil perry

of course i would!!!

plus i know you’d just play the same few songs the entire time because you haven’t figured out what the fuck your playlists are

todd anderson

listen

i finally looked at my profile and saw how horrendous it was

and then i thought about my eight followers and how they must think i’m unorganized

so i panicked

neil perry

as one of your followers i have to say i don't think that

but it is funny when i see you in the friend activity listening to a playlist called "dumb"

todd anderson

don't expose me like this

but please do make me a road mix

even if you are including chip on my shoulder again

neil perry

hey it's a good song!!

todd anderson

i know

but you can't just add it to every playlist

neil perry

why not :(

todd anderson

does it fit in the playlist you have full of songs that you listen to when you're upset and want to remain upset

you know the one(s)

neil perry

probably not

and hey just because i have like five depression playlists doesn't mean at least one of them couldn't have chip on my shoulder

todd anderson

five?? i have more than five

neil perry

we can't all be mentally stable

but um

sorry half the playlist is father john misty

<3

todd anderson

no no FJM is good

neil perry

here you go

x

todd anderson

that was fast

oh my god

slow show.

slow show!??

neil perry

slow show :)

todd anderson

slow show

neil perry

i remember these things okay

todd anderson

YOU LOOKED SO GOOFY THAT NIGHT

neil perry

did i really

todd anderson

you looked like marty in bttf 3

neil perry

...it was a costume party

todd anderson

you were still cute though

and then they were like fuck it. playing the national

neil perry

and i jokingly asked you to dance with me

meanwhile i actually wanted to dance with you

but oh my god that night

i wish i could've confessed to you then

todd anderson

i almost did confess that night

charlie chose chaos and made me get drunk

i wanted to confess to you but you were already asleep by then and when i woke up i was like oh god. that would've been a nightmare

neil perry

well we're a couple of idiots aren't we

todd anderson

yes

but i'm glad we agree that slow show is our song based on that night

neil perry

wouldn’t be very us if it weren’t the national

todd anderson

true

hey would you mind if i called you before i go to sleep later

maybe fall asleep on the phone

neil perry

um yes???

i’d love that

todd anderson

<3 love you

neil perry

love you too <33333

Chapter End Notes

shameless self promo of my spotify

when todd says neil looked like marty in bttf 3 he means the cowboy outfit he had from 1955

music references:

title is from mistaken for strangers by the national
chip on my shoulder is from the legally blonde musical
slow show is by the national

Chapter 26: the longer i stay here, the longer there's no future

Chapter Summary

attempted to do a longer chapter. went through various moods in the time i wrote it. idk what this is but enjoy

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

todd anderson

dad is listening to country music help

neil perry

aren't you listening to your own music??

todd anderson

yes but he's BLASTING it

who the hell blasts country music

neil perry

white people

todd anderson

true

what are you doing

neil perry

listening to niki

working on the art paper

todd anderson

i'm glad i finished that earlier i wouldn't do it when i get back

neil perry

it's a fucking drag honestly

like

grant really picked the worst topics

todd anderson

not his fault his wife came out as gay

i feel bad for him bc he's so sweet

but good for her

neil perry

at least he doesn't hate her for it

todd anderson

we love a good ally

even if he can be boring as hell

neil??

what are you leaving me on read for

neil perry

sorry

i saw your text and just

a huge wave of depression hit me

todd anderson

are you okay

are you there alone

neil perry

i'm fine

knox is here

charlie is somewhere who knows

todd anderson

i'm sorry i can't be there with you

you can hug thor and pretend it's me <3

neil perry

you took jamie with you right

todd anderson

of course

i never leave without him

neil perry

good

todd anderson

i can't believe you added walking the dog II to this playlist

neil perry

why

it's a good song :(

todd anderson

i know!!

i just think you're cute for including it

neil perry

you're cute for listening to it

todd anderson

no stop don't compliment me

neil perry

why not

you deserve it

todd anderson

dad's gonna see me smiling and bother me about it

so stfu

neil perry

i'd like to slap your dad

todd anderson

not while he's driving hon

neil perry

you're right

i'll slap him while he's sleeping

todd anderson

thanks <3

neil perry

so

pythacarus

todd anderson

oh my god

pythacarus

what about them

neil perry

oh idk

just thinking about how they had the greatest dynamic and only had like four eps together

todd anderson

y'know at least they didn't die

they were such a good gay couple i'm sad they got cancelled

neil perry

whoever played icarus is hot

todd anderson

neil

neil perry

todd

todd anderson

you're making it sound like you have a type

and that it's ancient greek himbos

neil perry

and what if it's true

todd anderson

then idk why you like me

neil perry

cause you're cute or whatever

todd anderson

"or whatever"

okay

neil perry

i'll slap you instead of your dad

todd anderson

please do

neil perry

since you said please

no <3

todd anderson

wow what a boyfriend you are

won't even slap me when i ask you to :(

neil perry

no but i will hug you :)

you really need it

todd anderson

how you gonna hug me when i'm out of the state

neil perry

i'll make it work

or i'll just give you the best hug ever when you get back

todd anderson

i really wish i didn't have to be here

i wish we could just be together and listen to slow songs

y'know like oldies and shit

and charlie would complain while knox just laughs about it

why can't we be doing that right now

neil perry

because your brother is an ass

we can do that when you get back though

if you want

todd anderson

really??

neil perry

yes

we'll listen to some ella fitzgerald

todd anderson

□

neil perry

okay but can we also watch breakfast at tiffany's

todd anderson

fuck yes

neil perry

it's funny

i look at you and think you wouldn't enjoy old movies and then you prove me wrong by having an obsession with them

todd anderson

i just think they're nice and simple

no unnecessary explosions or gunfights or anything

no need to be worried about anxiety attacks

just being content

neil perry

i know

i understand

plus the music is so beautiful??? how

todd anderson

omg

moon river though

neil perry

fucking moon river 😩

todd anderson

i'd love to dance with you to moon river

make the lighting in the dorm all dramatic

steal charlie's speaker and play it on there

wear our pajamas bc suits are wack

neil perry

oh my god??

todd

we need to do that

turn the car around right now

i wanna dance with you 😎

todd anderson

wish i could

neil perry

hey remember when knox asked me to help him learn to dance because he was trying to impress charlie

todd anderson

how could i forget

he twisted his ankle trying to learn

neil perry

he should've picked someone who could actually dance to teach him

youtube tutorials don't help every time

todd anderson

should've told him to go see meeks

that man can dance

neil perry

too bad he's a genius he'd make a great dancer

todd anderson

i'm sure pitts is content with him staying out of the spotlight

neil perry

i'm not

i mean i wanna do another play

but what is time

todd anderson

why don't you just. idk. use your free time to actually be in a play as opposed to playing the sims all night

neil perry

because

um

todd anderson

i feel like you should've been in the play they're doing rn

i know you couldn't audition but still

neil perry

stupid dad

but thanks for believing in me

todd anderson

ofc

oh god

dad actually tried to talk to me

neil perry

what did he say

todd anderson

the usual jeff's 100% better than me kind of comment

nothing special

neil perry

when is he going to realize you're better than jeff

why do they even act like that istg

todd anderson

they hate me <3

idk neil i think it's honestly because they gave up on parenting me

they raised jeff and then decided they were done being parents without realizing they had another kid to take care of

neil perry

i'm sorry

if i was allowed to i'd be with you right now

todd anderson

i just get so mad about it

i used to not care because i couldn't do anything about it so i just accepted it

but then i met you and you made me believe in myself and i wanted to prove to them that i'm more than what they see but

well you know

neil perry

oh yea

your mom really ruined that weekend

todd anderson

anyway

i'm gonna let you do your paper and probably look up some pythacarus fics bc i can

neil perry

read the groundhog day one

idk what it's called

but you'll know it when you see it

todd anderson

thanks

i love you neil

i'll text you when i get there

neil perry

i love you todd <33

Chapter End Notes

the groundhog day fic in question is stop me if you've heard (lived) this one before

when todd and neil are talking about thor and jamie they're referring to the stuffed animals they got each other from the aquarium ages ago and sleep with :)

music references:

title is from so i'm growing old on magic mountain by father john misty
walking the dog II is by fun.
moon river is by audrey hepburn (ik there's a lot of different versions but this is the one they're referring to)

Chapter 27: and i promise i won't lie, we'll make it out alive

Chapter Summary

if ever you read a chapter in this fic and think the andersons will be redeemed, you are sorely mistaken

shorter chapter bc i'm losing my mind <3

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

todd anderson

good mooooorning neilyyyy

neil perry

uh

good morning toddy

todd anderson

aren't you excited

i'm spending the day doing nothing

i came here for absolutely nothing!

neil perry

wdym

todd anderson

they went without me :)

dragged me all the way here only to leave without me

all because i woke up just as they were putting their shoes on

neil perry

so now what are you doing

todd anderson

listening to ballads 1 really loudly

trying to piss the neighbors off

made an omelet

neil perry

guess both of your parents went along?

todd anderson

yea

idk how long they'll be gone for but i'm actually glad i'm home alone

gives me a chance to avoid all of this for a while

neil perry

do you think you'll have to do something with them later

like go out to dinner or something

todd anderson

i hope not

why, do you need something?

neil perry

oh no

just wanted to know in case you wanted company <3

todd anderson

oh don't worry

if i want any company you'll be the first one i call

neil perry

good :)

i have nothing to do today anyways

todd anderson

why don't you listen to blue brook and pretend you're in a play

you used to do that when we first met

neil perry

i miss doing that

wtf made you think about that???

todd anderson

idk

but it was really cute

you'd just put on some piano type music and get all dramatic

there were times you'd take your essay and turn it into a play just because it was fun

neil perry

god that was a good time in my life

but y'know classes just kept getting harder and i stopped bc i had no motivation anymore

todd anderson

maybe you should start doing it again

you could even listen to some project destati covers and do it

neil perry

project destati 🤔

okay maybe i'll do that today

if you aren't texting me all day

□

todd anderson

fine i'll just play animal crossing without you

neil perry

rude

todd anderson

but seriously go be the dramatic bitch you were born to be

neil perry

charlie's already being dramatic for all of us

todd anderson

what are they doing

why is he even awake this early

neil perry

knox insisted they go on a day-long adventure

i think they're just going to the aquarium or something

but charlie is just complaining that it's so early

todd anderson

fair enough

neil perry

we should go on an aquarium date

we weren't dating last time

todd anderson

maybe we should

but maybe when we're on break

neil perry

of course

todd anderson

hey is it bad that i'm now listening to why are you ok

neil perry

um

maybe

but it is a great album to blast

todd anderson

indeed

neil perry

what if i was a dramatic bitch but on facetime with you

todd anderson

you'd do that??

neil perry

well i don't want you to get lonely

ik it's probably really boring there

todd anderson

it is

talking to you makes it bearable though

neil perry

then give me like five minutes to look up a play and wait for charlie and knox to go and i'll call you

todd anderson

okay <3

Chapter End Notes

music references:

title is from wanted u by joji
ballads 1 is by joji
blue brook is by peter sandberg
project destati is an artist that covers various kingdom hearts songs (i highly recommend giving them a listen if you like instrumental/soundtrack songs!!!)
why are you ok is by band of horses

Chapter 28: i cry to the moon and beg it to change me or rip me in two

Chapter Summary

!! tw for mild depression

wrote this both late at night and very early in the morning. if it sucks i am sorry

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

neil perry

sorry for being so quiet after we talked before

i just

i'm not feeling the best today

todd anderson

is it something i should be worried about

or are you like physically sick

neil perry

i feel like you're waiting for an out

and i'm not implying you're a bad person

i'm just

my brain wants me to believe i'm unlovable

todd anderson

oh

neil perry

don't get me wrong

i love you todd

but some days i just don't get why you love me

some days i think you're just being nice to save me from being upset

todd anderson

well i promise i'm not

i promise i'm nice to you because i love you and you deserve to be treated nicely

i know it's hard to believe sometimes

i think about it a lot

ik my parents will never really love me

but i want you to know that my feelings are true and genuine

i'm not looking for a way out

i want to be with you

neil perry

thank you

i guess i'm just thinking too much

todd anderson

it's okay

you're allowed to have days like this

i wish i could be there with you so we could just lie in bed all day and watch parks and rec or something

neil perry

have your parents come back yet??

todd anderson

yea a few minutes ago

they haven't said anything to me

neil perry

god i hate them

do they even remember you're there

todd anderson

oh yea

they're doing what they do best

talking about me like i'm not here

neil perry

assholes

still gonna slap your dad

todd anderson

thank you <3

give me an album to listen to

or a playlist

neil perry

what's the vibe

todd anderson

depressed loser wants to run away

neil perry

okay

uhhh

album wise - invented by jimmy

playlist wise - kind of a downer

todd anderson

omg yes

both good choices

neil perry

we could listen together if you want

todd anderson

yea alright

Chapter End Notes

suuuper short chapter i know but i'll make up for it i promise

music references:

title is from gray light by soccer mommy
invented is by jimmy eat world

Chapter 29: how do i do what i do if i don't get nothing from you?

Chapter Summary

> felt like trying out a (small) group chat dynamic between neil, charlie, todd, and knox bc i 100% believe they'd have a group chat for being roommates and complaining about who should clean or go grocery shopping or something like that

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

charlie dalton

nobody wanted to get more cocoa puffs i see

todd anderson

i'm not even home so wasn't my fault

knox overstreet

i thought neil was going to the store

charlie dalton

he did not

knox overstreet

oh

my bad

neil perry

knox i was out with pittsie i didn't have time to go to the store

why didn't you go

charlie dalton

who cares

point is you all owe me cocoa puffs

todd anderson

all of us??

no thank you

knox overstreet

i'll get your stupid cocoa puffs

neil perry

you really got so upset about cereal that you're blasting the honorary title???

we agreed that was NOT the right use for that album

charlie dalton

when you blast susie suh do i criticize you for it?

no

neil perry

okay charlie

i'll remember that

todd anderson

charlie you're listening to the honorary title without me??

:(

knox overstreet

he's not really listening to it

he's playing it in an act of protest

for not having his damn cereal

neil perry

charlie i am going to kill you

charlie dalton

do it you won't <3

todd anderson

please don't kill anyone

knox overstreet

as someone who comes from a family of lawyers i agree

charlie dalton

ew i'm dating a lawyer

knox overstreet

i've already told you i'm not going into law

but go off

charlie dalton

when you ask your best friend to kill you and your lawyer boyfriend says no 😩

todd anderson

sometimes i wonder why i'm friends with you

but hey if you're going to the store can you get me some hot chocolate

knox overstreet

yes todd

anyone else need anything

neil perry

chicken nuggies!!!

charlie dalton

you said nuggies

neil perry

you got a problem with that???

charlie dalton

no

it's just funny

knox overstreet

okay

cocoa puffs, hot chocolate, and chicken "nuggies"

anything else

todd anderson

oh i need some batteries

don't even say it charlie

charlie dalton

say what

todd anderson

you know what

they're for my switch controller ☺

neil perry

i can't believe you'd think charlie would say something bad about you needing batteries

what kind of person do you think they are

todd anderson

someone that makes jokes out of everything

knox overstreet

he uses it to cope

charlie dalton

wow

just exposing me like that

neil perry

you know he's not wrong

when your childhood dog died you just spent an entire month making everything funny even if it wasn't funny

charlie dalton

he was a funny dog! let me alone

knox overstreet

okay well i'm leaving

text me if you guys remember anything you need

todd anderson

i need someone to pick me up so i don't have to be with my parents

neil perry

aren't you coming home later??

charlie dalton

yea it's sunday what's up with that

todd anderson

i am

but i just wish i wasn't here

charlie dalton

if knoxious wasn't using the car i'd come get you

knox overstreet

sorry

todd anderson

no it's okay

we'll all be together to watch that documentary keating told us about

neil perry

fuck

i forgot he wanted us to watch that

todd anderson

it's not for class don't worry

it's just a recommendation

but when has he steered us wrong before??

neil perry

fair point

charlie dalton

wait

no

i'm not watching a documentary

todd anderson

oh come on

it's probably really interesting!!

charlie dalton

no

count me out

knox overstreet

i'm at a red light don't yell at me

charlie just watch it with us

charlie dalton

or what

knox overstreet

no cocoa puffs for you

charlie dalton

fine 😒

i'll watch your stupid documentary

neil perry

okay can you change your music now

charlie dalton

sure

is this better

neil perry

uh oh

todd anderson

what are you playing charlie

charlie dalton

beautiful soul :)

the whooole album

neil perry

excuse me while i go kill charlie

todd anderson

:/

Chapter End Notes

charlie uses various emojis ironically because they think it’s funny
the documentary they're going to watch isn't anything specific, just anything you imagine keating would recommend them to watch <3

music references:

title is from lately by metronomy
the honorary title album charlie plays is scream and light up the sky
beautiful soul is by jesse mccartney

Chapter 30: everything you, every time you, every word you say

Chapter Summary

short chapter is short.

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

todd anderson

you forgot your laptop

neil perry

did i really

fuck

todd anderson

are you in class yet

neil perry

no

halfway there though

would you mind bringing it to me

i'm right by the fountain

todd anderson

i guess

i don't know how you'd forget to put it in your bag

neil perry

i didn't get much sleep okay

too busy listening to evil urges

todd anderson

so that's what i heard when i woke up

i'll be there in five

neil perry

i've been on a kick the last few days

my morning jacket, father john misty, band of horses

that side of my music taste

evil urges just happened to be the choice today

todd anderson

i'm not judging

i was listening to real love baby on a loop

neil perry

well you get a free pass for that one

anyway we haven't talked about what your dad was telling you when he dropped you off

todd anderson

you want to have this conversation right now??

neil perry

no

but when you're done with your class later we should talk about it

todd anderson

fine

you aren't going to like it

neil perry

i don't like anything that man says to you

todd anderson

fair point

he's not a very likable person

neil perry

whatever it is can't be as bad as my dad yesterday

texting me telling me how much of an idiot he thinks i am for not having the same views as him

like no thank you i'd rather not be an asshole

todd anderson

damn

okay i see you now

neil perry

wow you look cute today

thank you for bringing my laptop <3

todd anderson

np

you look cuter though

neil perry

if i didn't have to go to this stupid health class i'd fight you on this

but alas, i have to be bored to death

todd anderson

don't worry

you'll only have to keep taking it for several more months :)

neil perry

shut up

at least i don't have to take it next year

todd anderson

i'm glad

you suck at health science a lot

neil perry

thank you

i do the bare minimum <3

todd anderson

at least it's not a stupid business class

neil perry

business would be more fun than this hell

anyway gtg

todd anderson

have fun honey

neil perry

<3

Chapter End Notes

thinking about either ending this (i know) or putting it on a brief hiatus but i'm not entirely sure yet

music references:

title is from if i told you this was killing me, would you stop? by the juliana theory
evil urges is by my morning jacket

real love baby is by father john misty

Chapter 31: i fell for your tricks, i'm the casualty

Chapter Summary

!! tw for mentions of homophobia and implied abuse

another non-text chapter bc oops
also very dialogue heavy my bad

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

neil was watching a *friends* marathon when todd came back.

"how was health science?" todd asked, walking over to the couch and sitting down.

"oh, it was fine," neil mumbled.

immediately todd could tell something was wrong, but didn't want to mention anything.

"i guess you wanna talk about my dad now."

"if you want to, yea."

"well, we talked about them moving. making me an isolated aspect of their lives. he said they're paying my tuition but nothing else. i literally don't have a home anymore, neil."

“oh, honey, i’m sorry. you know my offer still stands, if you’re comfortable with it.”

“you really think your parents would say yes?”

“i don’t care what they have to say about it. i’ll be away from them in a few years anyway, i don’t see why it would matter to let my roommate live with me.”

“maybe because we’re more than just roommates.”

“if it’s an issue we’ll just leave.”

neil was not at all convincing, but again, todd let it go.

“okay. i’ll think about it.”

“did your dad tell you anything else?”

“no.”

“are you sure?”

“...no.”

“so what is it, then?”

“nothing serious, i guess.”

“you’re making it *sound* serious.”

todd focused his attention on the tv, recognizing the episode of *friends* to be from season eight. he knew if he told neil what happened he’d never let it go, but he also knew he couldn’t hide it forever.

“jeff snatched my phone from me while you and i were talking. he didn’t send any messages, just read through a few.”

“and?”

“he handed my phone back and told me it made sense i was gay. very loudly. everyone in the neighborhood probably heard him.”

“oh.”

“wasn’t a good night.”

“i’m sorry.”

“did your parents ever hurt you?”

“what kind of question is that?”

“a valid question.”

“i’m going to assume you mean if they hurt me for being gay, in which case yes. more verbal than physical but still, it happened.”

“does it ever go away?”

“does *what* ever go away?”

todd looked back at neil, who could immediately tell he was trying to avoid crying.

“feeling like you’re a disappointment. that anything you do from now on is useless.”

“i don’t think it goes away entirely. maybe it gets easier, but it’s always there.”

“when jeff got everyone’s attention i thought i wouldn’t make it out alive. dad wasn’t happy at *all* and- and he made sure i knew it.”

“oh, todd...”

“can we talk about something else?”

“yea- yea, of course. we could uh, we could- i don’t know what we

could do.”

“you good?”

“i’m fine, just exhausted. i didn’t get much sleep when you weren’t here and i guess it carried into today.”

neil gave a fake smile and leaned closer to todd, pulling him into a hug.

“you’d tell me if something was up, right?”

“of course, toddy.”

“good. i *do* worry, you know.”

“i know.”

Chapter End Notes

music references:

title is from i like u by niki

Chapter 32: not drowning, just swimming slow

Chapter Summary

whatever i was intending on writing for this chapter is not what it became at all but hope you enjoy

!! tw for the slightest mention of self harm/relapsing

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

neil perry

hey

when you coming home?

todd anderson

i just need to find one more book and then i'll be done

what's up

neil perry

i've been thinking a lot

not good though

todd anderson

if it's about my family i'm sorry

i didn't mean to burden you with my problems

neil perry

it's not that

i know you'll be upset with me if i tell you but i don't want to hide it from you anymore

todd anderson

okay then tell me

neil perry

i haven't taken my meds for two weeks

todd anderson

why??

do you need a refill?? i can get them refilled

neil perry

it's not that i ran out

i just. i don't know

i know they help me but i missed a day on accident and then just kept missing them

todd anderson

can you start taking them again?

for me?

neil perry

yea

yea i can

todd anderson

i'm not mad at you btw

i know it's hard for you to keep consistency in your life

but i'm glad you told me

neil perry

would you be mad if it wasn't the only thing i've been avoiding telling you

todd anderson

depends on what it is

neil perry

i almost relapsed last night

key being almost

todd anderson

what stopped you

neil perry

we don't have a first aid kit in here

and meeks sent me a dumb chem meme

completely took me out of the moment

todd anderson

what made you want to do it??

neil perry

everything felt overwhelming

i didn't sleep much when you were gone and i guess because i wasn't taking my meds it all just crashed on me

i'm sorry

todd anderson

no don't be

it's okay

what matters is that you stopped yourself from doing it

i know it sucks you thought of it in the first place but you didn't act on it

neil perry

so you're not mad

todd anderson

no

i'm glad you told me though

neil perry

when you get back can we just cuddle and watch something

todd anderson

yea of course

but if you're interested i wrote a new poem today

neil perry

omg

new poem!!!

my boyfriend wrote a poem!!!!!

todd anderson

it's nothing too exciting

kind of influenced by recent events

neil perry

can you read it to me

please

todd anderson

yes

i'm on my way back now

neil perry

keep talking to me >:(

todd anderson

i wasn't intending on stopping

neil perry

good

bc besides being a depressed bundle of joy i've also been thinking about nicer things

todd anderson

like what

neil perry

when it gets nicer outside we should go on a picnic

by the lake i told you about

todd anderson

a picnic sounds nice

neil perry

and we'll go to the aquarium and see the otters

todd anderson

yes

otters are nice

neil perry

i think that's why i didn't relapse

todd anderson

because of otters??

neil perry

no

because i can look ahead and think about doing that kind of stuff with you

i'm not stuck here hoping for a better life anymore

i already have a pretty good one with you

todd anderson

oh neil

i love you

neil perry

i love you too <333

Chapter End Notes

kind of an abrupt end ig but hey. would you expect anything else

at this point i’m probably ending this in a few chapters anyway

music references:

title is from breathing underwater for dummies by rav x kill bill x scuare

Chapter 33: i wish i pushed myself all the way, i wish i wasn't tired every day

Chapter Summary

> i really have no idea what this chapter is but it was extremely difficult to write

Chapter Notes

> probably really bland way to end this i know but my motivation to write this has left me and i can't leave this as a non-finished story but i'm also not going to say it's completely done. maybe i'll revisit it in the future who knows, but for the time being enjoy this open-ended thing <3

See the end of the chapter for more notes

todd anderson

so

i see you're listening to high violet

what's up

neil perry

oh yea you can see that

i'm just vibing

todd anderson

do you see what i'm listening to

neil perry

elastica

todd anderson

:)

neil perry

back in that phase huh

todd anderson

it's better than your broadway-only phase

neil perry

.....

todd anderson

it wasn't bad!! just weird

neil perry

well what else would you expect from me

todd anderson

nothing

it was just funny

neil perry

can’t be as funny as when you wrote charlie a poem

todd anderson

why would you remind me of this

neil perry

because it was funny □

todd anderson

:/

okay

neil perry

they didn’t even know what to do with it

only you would write him a poem about needing to clean

todd anderson

how else was i supposed to say it

neil perry

just say hey charlie can you clean the kitchen when you're done

don't write a whole poem

todd anderson

okay fine

subject change

how are you doing

neil perry

i told you i'm vibing

todd anderson

i know but can you blame me for being worried

neil perry

no

but i'm okay

todd anderson

you sure

neil perry

yea! i'm fine

i'm just bored

i wish you weren't working on that project rn

todd anderson

why

what would you wanna do

neil perry

sit and watch movies

listen to ouch! on blast

you know

the usual

todd anderson

ah yes

i would like one order of ouch! please

neil perry

this is why i love you

todd anderson

because i liked ouch!?

neil perry

because you’re cute

you say dumb little things all the time but it’s cute

todd anderson

oh

well in that case

i found a little froggy plushie on etsy

neil perry

froggy???

sign me up

todd anderson

maybe for your birthday :)

neil perry

i forgot it was my birthday soon

todd anderson

we're going to the aquarium idc what you say

neil perry

oh i don't have a problem with that

but who's we

todd anderson

all of us

if that's okay

neil perry

that's fine

i was just wondering if i was going to deal with charlie complaining about the lack of dolphins again

todd anderson

oh yea

but that's the best part

keeping charlie entertained is hard enough

neil perry

knox has a hard life but he chose it

todd anderson

at least you get easily entertained when i show you otters

neil perry

OTTERS

WHERE

todd anderson

at the aquarium dummy

neil perry

getting me hyped up for nothing 😒

todd anderson

you only have to wait a few weeks to see them don't worry

neil perry

but i don't want to be older

todd anderson

ik honey but life doesn't work that way

neil perry

rude

todd anderson

charlie said they're making brownies for you

neil perry

omg

does he know i love him

todd anderson

yes

neil perry

good

i hope they're all for me and me alone <3

todd anderson

i think meeks will want some

neil perry

he can get his own ☺

todd anderson

hey be nice to him

neil perry

i am nice!!

i send him memes all the time

todd anderson

i'm sure he appreciates that

neil perry

me and him have a group with pittsie just for science memes

he has to appreciate that

todd anderson

what a nerd

neil perry

i didn't choose to take so many science classes okay

the least i can do with this knowledge is put it into meme form

todd anderson

okay fair

neil perry

anyway listen to jim james with me :(

todd anderson

right now??

neil perry

through the group session thing

todd anderson

okay

oh wait

tribute to??

hell yea

neil perry

now finish that project and get home so i can hug you

todd anderson

okay honey

neil perry

<3

todd anderson

<333

Chapter End Notes

look whatever you think neil's birthday is it doesn't really matter here because this is a story where the concept of time just isn't real

music references:

title is from come over by matt watson

high violet is by the national
elastica (self titled album) is by elastica
ouch! is by matt watson
tribute to is by jim james

Chapter 34: wanderin' destiny, wanderin' fantasy

Chapter Notes

a new chapter?? yea hello i'm not dead <3

See the end of the chapter for more notes

neil perry

okay first off hiiii

secondly what the HELL is this assignment

does ray think this is humane??

charlie dalton

you know what

i think he enjoys your suffering

neil perry

well of course he does

he's held a grudge against me from the moment we met

charlie dalton

maybe he's just jealous he'll never have your jawline

neil perry

yea that must be it

anyway you're listening to globe and i have several questions

charlie dalton

so NOW you follow me on spotify

neil perry

that and i can hear it from my room

charlie dalton

yea well it's that time of the day

the dumb sad bitch hours

i can't NOT blast music rn

neil perry

you need to talk about it?

charlie dalton

nope

just need music

you're welcome to join though

neil perry

i have a project to do :(

charlie dalton

but you're texting me?

kinda sus

neil perry

don't you have a presentation to prepare for tomorrow??

charlie dalton

bold of you to assume i haven't already finished it

neil perry

so you're gonna do it at 3am

charlie dalton

damn you got me there

neil perry

seriously though you should probably work on it sooner than later

i know how grumpy you get when you've slept less than two hours

charlie dalton

i'll be fine

probably won't even sleep tonight

i'll take a nice nap after classes are over

neil perry

okay :/

just don't come to me when you fall asleep in class

charlie dalton

it's okay. i'll go to todd instead <3

neil perry

□

okay

Chapter End Notes

i cannot promise this will get more chapters at a frequent pace but i've missed writing about dps and i'm gonna try my best to get back into it <3 in the meantime feel free to follow me on tumblr

title is from wanderin' destiny by globe

Chapter 35: it's your love that carries me through

Chapter Notes

stream invisible love by susie suh or i'm taking your kneecaps <3

See the end of the chapter for more notes

neil perry

TODDDDDDD

TODDY

NEW SUSIE SUH ALBUM

todd anderson

HUH

NEW SUSIE SUH IN THE YEAR 2021???

neil perry

YES!!

IT'S CALLED INVISIBLE LOVE

CAN WE PLEASE LISTEN TO IT TOGETHER

todd anderson

only if you stop yelling

neil perry

OKAY

shit sorry

i'm just excited <3

todd anderson

i know

who had that on their bingo card??

neil perry

not me!!

not complaining though. not at all

todd anderson

we can listen to it with that group listening thing if you want

i won't be home for a while

neil perry

okay :(

i wanted to listen to it together in person but if you insist

todd anderson

you aren't even home either

knox made you go shopping with him didn't he??

neil perry

yes

but hey!! i had to make sure to get you something

todd anderson

get me something?? for what

neil perry

oh you know

just a certain date coming up

todd anderson

my birthday ☺

neil perry

maybe □

todd anderson

didn't we agree to not buy me anything

neil perry

who's we

i just wanted to buy my boyfriend a gift

todd anderson

fine

anyway you wanna do the group thing now??

neil perry

yes yes

i'm so happy there's a new album you don't even know

todd anderson

she really just saw our lives in shambles and said hey i can help

neil perry

and we love her for it <3

Chapter End Notes

see this is when the timeline of events starts getting fuzzy so we'll just go with the idea that time does not exist in this fic anymore

title is from best friend by susie suh

invisible love is by susie suh

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